

National Minority Health Month – April

Theme of 2008: A Healthy Baby Begins with You

Background

Improving the health status of minorities has always been a serious concern for minority leaders. It was such a concern in 1914 that Booker T. Washington spearheaded the implementation of National Negro Health Week (NNHW). This initiative received support and encouragement from civic clubs, work places, businesses, hospitals, churches and minority health professionals. The week was launched in April 1915.

In 1921, the U.S. Surgeon General was asked by the oversight committee of NNHW to assist in expanding the capabilities of this effort. The Surgeon General complied and became a source of sustaining support, by publishing a nationally circulated Negro Health Week Bulletin that was designed to reach large audiences.

The launching of National Minority Health Month (NMHM) by the Minority Health Communications, a healthcare communications company and its partners, in April 2001 was a rebirth of this important, well-organized effort to eliminate disparities across the country. NMHM was in response to and in support of Healthy People 2010, a national health promotion and disease prevention initiative launched by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Surgeon General.

The goals of NMHM are to build public/private partnerships, foster cultural competency among health care providers, encourage health education and training and expand the use of state-of-the-art technology.

The Office of Minority Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announces that the theme of 2008 NMHM is “A Healthy Baby Begins with You,” which is also a national campaign to raise awareness about infant mortality with an emphasis on the African American community.

Source: http://www.nmhm.org/about_bottom.htm
<http://www.omhrc.gov/>